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A REPORT ON 4-H CLUB WORK
WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT IS DOING

A radio talk by Miss Gertrude L. Warren, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered in the National 4-H Club Radio Program, March 5, 1938, and broadcast by a network of associate N. B. C. radio stations.

In greeting you of my radio audience today, I need not remind you, especially after hearing the inspiring stories of these young people from Delaware, that the 4-H club movement is unfolding similar opportunities to countless other rural young people not only in the United States but also in many other countries. Only last week, Dr. H. T. Jutila of Finland visited the National 4-H Club Office of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, bringing with him an exhibit of what the 50,000 4-H boys and girls of that interesting country have been enabled to do through their 4-H farming and homemaking activities. Equally fine reports of 4-H club work have been received in the last few months from Latvia, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and even from China and South Africa.

To some of us, the time does not seem far distant when 4-H members will be having their own International 4-H Club Camp, perhaps at Washington -- affording an opportunity for rural young people of many lands to compare notes on how they are making the most of their opportunities at home and in their rural communities; how they are learning to perform the work of the home and barn and field according to the best information afforded them; how they are taking part in community and county improvement programs, yes, how they are even helping to develop such programs, thus gaining a larger concept of national problems in agriculture; how, thereby also, they are learning to make worthwhile contacts with outstanding men and women; and how they are learning to make decisions wisely in relation to their own life plans -- in establishing a home of their own, in deciding on a vocation and perhaps in developing a financial plan that will give to each a feeling of security.

According to our latest reports, there are now enrolled in 4-H club work more than 1,300,000 rural young people. Of this number, over 250,000 are between the ages of 16 and 20 -- an imposing figure in itself being more than are enrolled in any other organization for rural young people of that age group. During this past year, it has been estimated that under the guidance of the 120,000 local volunteer leaders, the 4-H members of this country earned nearly \$25,000,000. Some of this huge amount is now in savings accounts but a large proportion has been spent for clothing, home furnishings, education, to help meet family notes at the bank or perhaps to increase the size of a 4-H herd of dairy cattle or a flock of sheep.

However, whatever these 4-H young people may do, whether it is canning the surplus of the garden in keeping with the dietary needs of the

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family; keeping themselves physically fit in order to be efficient for their work; raising cotton, corn or wheat in keeping with the best known practices; or gradually becoming a proud possessor of a well-managed herd -- these rural young people learn at home to face real life situations; they learn the meaning of ownership, thrift and integrity; they develop through sharing closer ties with the members of their own family, thus making for family solidarity; they form friendships with the most worthwhile people of their own communities, and often, of their counties and states; they widen their interests in many directions through the various activities in music, art, dramatics and other forms of recreation common to the 4-H program; they learn to serve in the home and community, identifying themselves with the best people of the community -- thus affording an opportunity for the expression of their own best selves; and they, through their meetings and numerous activities, often develop a spirit that makes them an asset to any organization and that enables them not only to lead wisely but also to follow intelligently. Thus the 4-H clubs, through helping rural young people to grow themselves as they watch the growth of their own crops and livestock as well as their other 4-H enterprises, are developing in rural America a community stability that, in turn, is being increasingly recognized as essential to social progress in America today.

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